

## **Maine CDC/DHHS Public Health Update**

**August 12, 2010**

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### **INFLUENZA UPDATE**

#### **New Information for the Upcoming Flu Season**

US CDC has issued the [Vaccine Information Statements](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm#flu) (VIS) for both the nasal spray and injectable forms of the 2010-2011 seasonal flu vaccine. The VIS are translated into a number of languages and audio recordings are also available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm#flu>

US CDC has also posted the following updates to its [Influenza Site](#):

- [Statement: ACIP Recommendation for Use of CSL Influenza Vaccine](#)
- [Recommended Influenza Vaccines for the U.S. 2010-11 season](#)
- [Information for Health Providers about ACIP Recommendations for Use of CSL Vaccine During the 2010–2011 Influenza Season](#)
- [ACIP: Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines](#)
- [Information for Health Care Providers on Using Monovalent 2009 Influenza A \(H1N1\) Vaccine Prior to the Availability of Trivalent 2010-11 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine, July 6, 2010 – September 15, 2010](#)

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the seasonal flu vaccines. For more information, see this press release: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm220718.htm>

The Assistant Surgeon General has issued [this letter](#) to health care providers with recommendations for the fall flu season.

Links to these and other materials are also available at [www.maineflu.gov](http://www.maineflu.gov)

#### **2009 H1N1 Influenza**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared an end to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, and issued its [recommendations](#) for the post-pandemic. The 2009 H1N1 virus is expected to continue to circulate as a seasonal virus for years to come and will likely continue to disproportionately affect a younger age group. Groups identified during the pandemic as at higher risk of severe or fatal illness will probably remain at heightened risk.

#### **Expired H1N1 Vaccine Disposal**

US CDC has organized a Central Vaccine Recovery Program to collect unused doses of the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine. Health care providers who received 2009 H1N1 vaccine and have signed a Provider Agreement should expect to receive pre-paid shipping labels from UPS. Providers who were not registered to receive H1N1 vaccine directly should contact

the provider who redistributed vaccine to them for this information. For more information, visit:  
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/hc-providers/vaccine-info-hcp.shtml#disposingvaccine>

## RECENT HEALTH ALERTS

- Maine CDC issued this [Health Alert](#) about recent Influenza A (H3N2) virus infections detected in a number of US states, including two small localized outbreaks.
- Maine CDC is investigating a cluster of **acute Hepatitis A** cases in Waldo County. For more information, see this [Health Alert](#).
- **Dengue virus** transmission has been increasing to epidemic levels in many parts of the tropics and subtropics. Travelers to these areas are at risk of acquiring dengue virus and developing dengue fever (DF) or the severe form of the disease, dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF). For more information, see this [Health Alert](#).

## VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

Summer is the prime time for mosquitoes and ticks – as well as the diseases they carry. Ticks can cause Anaplasma, Babesia, Ehrlichia, Lyme, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Powassan. Mosquitoes can carry Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile virus (WNV).

Tickborne diseases have already been reported in Maine this summer – and all Mainers should follow these recommendations to prevent illness:

- Wear protective clothing
- Use insect repellent
- Use caution in tick infested areas
- Perform daily tick checks

Although EEE and WNV have not been found in Maine yet this summer, there was unprecedented EEE activity in Maine in 2009. Several surrounding states have already seen EEE and WNV activity, including increased risk of EEE in southeastern Massachusetts (more information can be found at <http://westnile.ashtonweb.com/>).

Information this year suggests that even though there may be fewer mosquitoes, a higher percentage of those mosquitoes may be carrying disease. Some ways to minimize the risk of EEE and WNV include:

- Wear long sleeves and long pants
- Use insect repellent on skin and clothes
- Take extra precautions at dusk and dawn
- Drain sources of artificial standing water where you live, work and play
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors

Physicians should keep these diseases in mind, particularly during the summer months. Early recognition and treatment may help prevent complications. All cases of tickborne (including erythema migrans) and mosquito-borne diseases should be reported to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.

For more information: <http://www.maine.gov/DHHS/boh/ddc/epi/vector-borne/>

## HEALTH REFORM

The Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance has established a web site at <http://www.maine.gov/healthreform/> that provides a central place for Mainers to review up-to-date information about the federal health reform law, The Affordable Care Act, and how it impacts Maine. The site includes links to federal and state agencies, the Maine Legislature's Joint Select Committee on Health Reform, and other information sources.

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SNAPSHOT

Maine's Department of Health and Human Services has issued the eighth edition of the [Quality Improvement Snapshot](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/QI/index.shtml), a brief, data-focused report. This issue focuses on the relationship of mental health with physical health risks and chronic disease through the integrated analysis of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data. This work has been the result of collaboration between Maine CDC and the Office of Continuous Quality Improvement, with funding support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and US CDC. More information is available on the DHHS quality improvement web site: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/QI/index.shtml>.

## NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

August is [National Immunization Awareness Month](#).

A new nationwide research initiative has been launched to define changes in the human immune system in response to infection or to vaccination. For more information, see this National Institutes of Health (NIH) [press release](#).

## STAY UPDATED

- **Follow Maine CDC's Social Media Updates:**
  - Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/MaineCDC>)
  - Twitter (<http://twitter.com/MEPublicHealth>)
  - MySpace ([www.myspace.com/mainepublichealth](http://www.myspace.com/mainepublichealth))
  - Maine CDC's Blog (<http://mainepublichealth.blogspot.com>)
- **For clinical consultation and outbreak management guidance**, call Maine CDC's toll free 24-hour phone line at: 1-800-821-5821.